



THE ADVOCATE

June 2013

Older Michiganians Day 2013: Healthy Aging, Healthy Michigan

Older Michiganians Day 2013: Healthy Aging, Healthy Michigan will be one to remember! Governor Rick Snyder will address the delegation of seniors on June 4, 2013. This marks the first time Governor Snyder has attended this annual event.

This free event provides a unique opportunity for over 850 older adults and advocates from across Michigan to unite in raising awareness and promoting issues of importance to seniors. In addition to the Governor's address, attendees will meet with their State Senators and Representatives to share their voice and ideas for promoting healthy aging and a healthy Michigan.

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www.oldermichiganiansday.com

State Budget Update: Conference Committee Approves Increase to MI Choice Funding, Partial Restoration of Home Delivered Meals Funds

The Michigan Department of Community Health joint conference committee consisting of Senators John Moolenaar, Gregory Vincent, Roger Kahn and Representatives Matthew Lori, Rob VerHeulen and Rashida Tlaib reconciled the differences between the House and Senate budget proposals. The conference committee report includes some positive news for senior advocates with an increase in MI Choice Waiver funding and a partial restoration of funding for Home Delivered Meals.

The MI Choice Waiver program will receive an increase of \$18 million bringing total program funding to \$300 million annually.

Since 2009, Home Delivered Meals have been hit hard. Meals on Wheels lost \$3.3 million in state funding from 2009-2011. Additionally, Home Delivered Meals lost \$360,000 as a result of the sequestration. This year, thanks to the efforts of senior advocates, Home Delivered Meals will see a partial restoration of cuts in the amount of \$500,000. The partial restoration will provide about 116,000 more meals in 2014 for older adults.

As the budget moves forward to a floor vote, it still excludes the Governor supported expansion of Medicaid to those at or below 133% of poverty level which would provide insurance to approximately 400,000 Michiganders. This will remain a priority for the Governor which he hopes to accomplish by the beginning of the fiscal year on October 1, 2013.

Elder Protection Legislation

In 2012, nearly 6 million cases of elder abuse were reported nationwide. Over 100,000 cases were reported in Michigan. Unfortunately a vast number of these cases are never actually reported.

Elder abuse is any form of mistreatment that results in harm or loss to an older person. This can include:

- Physical Abuse: Physical force that results in bodily injury, pain, or impairment. This includes assault, battery, and inappropriate restraint
- Sexual Abuse: A non-consensual sexual contact of any kind
- Domestic Violence: An escalating pattern of violence by an intimate partner where the violence is used to exercise power and control
- Psychological Abuse: The willful infliction of mental or emotional anguish by treat, humiliation or other verbal or nonverbal conduct
- Financial Abuse: The illegal or improper use of an older person's funds, property or resources
- Neglect: The failure of a caregiver to fulfill his or her caregiving responsibilities
- Self-Neglect: The failure to provide for one's own essential needs

On June 19, 2012 Governor Rick Snyder signed into law a 10 bill package aimed at protecting senior citizens and vulnerable adults in Michigan. We applaud the work of the legislature and Governor in taking this action, yet we acknowledge that the work is not done. During the last legislative session, 6 bills aimed at protecting seniors and older adults from elder abuse were never reported out of their respective committees. The bills would help to provide financial protection of seniors from potential abusers by requiring financial institutions to disclose how joint banking accounts can be used, require bank tellers to report suspected financial abuse of their clients, regulate the various certifications used to credential for profit financial advice to seniors.

Advocates are contacting representatives to request the reintroduction of HB 460, 463, 604, 605, 706, and 777 from the 2011-2012 legislative session to help protect Michigan's seniors from elder abuse.

If you suspect any kind of abuse of an elder, call the statewide 24-hour anonymous hotline at 1-855-444-3911



The Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA 1-B) is a nonprofit agency serving the needs of older adults in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, and Washtenaw counties. Contact Ryan Cowmeadow, (248) 262-1282 or by e-mail at rcowmeadow@aaa1b.com to join the Senior Advocacy Network or receive copies of AAA 1-B reports referenced in The Advocate.

June 15, 2013 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day!

Designated by the United Nations, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day attempts to shine a light on the problem of physical, emotional and financial abuse of older adults

**NO EXCUSE
FOR
Elder Abuse**